

BIRD NOTES

SOUTHERN OCCURRENCE OF THE ORIENTAL DOTTEREL — It is only rarely that the Oriental Dotterel *Charadrius veredus* has been reported in southern Australia. Two birds of the species were mist netted in a nearly empty dam during a severe heat wave at Erdora Homestead, east of Sutherlands, S.A., on January 30, 1968. They were measured,

weighed, banded and photographed in colour before being released.

J. D. D. La Touche (*A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China*, II (4): 340; 1933) states that the Oriental Dotterel is abundant in Mongolia and nests on the high plateaux and stony plains on the banks of the bitter lakes and the few streams that water the land. He

remarks that the birds run very lightly and fast, and that they feed on small insects, chiefly on Coleoptera, which abound in summer in those sandy regions. Their flight, he says, is powerful and reminds one of the swifts.

Details of the two Sutherlands birds are as follows, starting with the C.S.I.R.O. band number:

050-72442. Weight, 86 grammes. Culmen, 23 mm. Tarsus, 48 mm. Wing chord, 170 mm. Tail, 64 mm.

050-72443. Weight, 86 grammes. Culmen, 25 mm. Tarsus, 45 mm. Wing chord, 168 mm. Tail, 58 mm.

Irides brown; bill relatively slender and black. Legs and feet buff-yellow. Axillaries and under wing-coverts brownish-grey.

The slender legs and bill, and the dark under-surface of the wings distinguish the Oriental Dotterel from the Large Sand-Dotterel *C. leschenaultii*, which has a heavy bill and white under-surface of the wings.

Publication of the above occurrence of the species was withheld until now because the birds had been banded and there was at least a remote possibility of a band-recovery.—E. F. BOEHM.

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